

WATER USE IN MINERAL INDUSTRIES

GENERAL

In the 1963 Census of Mineral Industries, water data were reported for about 19,000 establishments out of the approximately 39,000 establishments included in the census. Information on water use was obtained for establishments reported on the census "long" forms, which include, in general, all establishments with more than four employees.

The number of establishments for which water use was obtained is shown by industry in table 1. The table indicates that of the approximately 19,000 establishments for which water use was shown, only 2,300 used utility water as their principal source of water, except mine water, while 13,200 specified that their principal source was not a utility. Of the 19,000 establishments about 1,200 used 100 million gallons or more of water per year and 1,000 reported using from 20 through 99 million gallons. Table 2 shows the distribution of these same data by State. Of establishments using over 100 million gallons, about 190 were in the East North Central States, 150 in the South Atlantic States and 290 in the West South Central States.

Information on industrial water use was first collected and published for all mineral industries in the 1954 Census of Mineral Industries. At that time, more detailed information on the use of water by mining establishments was obtained. Some such information has since been collected by the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior, for the years 1959 and 1962. The present statistics are intended to furnish a benchmark indicative of the number of water users and the size and kind of their consumption rather than to provide a measure of total water use by the mineral industries.

DEFINITIONS

Source of water used, referred to as "utility" represents all publicly or privately operated systems whose primary purpose is the supplying of water to the general public. "Other than utility" refers to all other sources of water (except mine water) such as company water systems and joint company water systems, whether their source is surface or ground water. Water use data include both fresh and brackish water, including mine water.